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TRAWDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council - Mrs. I. G. Banks, J.P.

Health Committee.

J. Pollard (Chairman)
Mrs. I. G. Banks, J.P.
W. Banks.
G. Bannister.
J. Blackhurst.
E. Driver.
A. Harrup.
H. T. Irving.
W. Kay.
Mrs. M. I. F. Lachman.
T. Leyland.
R. Spencer.

Clerk of the Council.

William R. Fisher.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

John V. Dyer, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
(Resigned 31.8.68)

P. G. Holt, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Appointed 1. 9. 68)

Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.

R. H. Short, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my first Annual Report on the Health and Environmental Conditions of the Urban District for the year ending 31st December 1968. The layout follows the usual pattern and the contents include all the items requested by the Department of Health and Social Security.

The population has shown a considerable increase over the previous year, which is rather against the trend in East Lancashire. All the increase must be due to migration into the District, and it is noteworthy that there are very few empty properties to be seen.

Apart from five cases of measles, no infectious disease was notified during 1968. The people are now benefiting tremendously from all the advances that there have been in immunisation against infectious disease, and it is essential that we do not relax our efforts to maintain this satisfactory position.

I wish to thank the Committee for their interest in the work of the Health Department and Mr. Short for his good work in a multitude of duties during the year.

I have the honour to be

Your Obedient Servant,

P. G. HOLT,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of District (acres)	6,815
Population (Census 1951)	2,114
Population (Census 1961)	1,951
Population (mid 1968 - Registrar General's Estimate)	2,010
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1961)	742
" " " " 1968	777
Rateable Value	£41,630
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£157

The social conditions of the District are very satisfactory. Being of only modest size there is a well developed community spirit and a high degree of self-help.

There is very little unemployment; indeed there is a daily influx of workers to the town from neighbouring districts. The chief occupations of the inhabitants are textile manufacture, agriculture, light engineering, and laundering.

	Males	Females	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate)	13	12	25
Live Births (Illegitimate)	1	-	1
	14	12	26

Live Births per 1,000 estimated population:

Crude Rate	12.9
Adjusted Rate (Comparability Factor - 1.26)	16.3
Still Births	1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births	37

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths (all causes)	12	17	29
Deaths from Maternal Causes	-	Nil	Nil
Deaths of Infants (under 1 year)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths of Infants (under 4 weeks)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths of Infants (under 1 week)	Nil	Nil	Nil

Mortality Rates per 1,000 estimated population:

Crude Rate	14.4
Adjusted Rate (Comparability Factor - 0.95)	13.7
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Nil

Classification of Causes of Death during 1968.

	Males	Females	Total
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	-	2	2
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	4	4	8
Cerebrovascular Disease	3	4	7
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	-	1
Pneumonia	-	1	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	1	1	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	1	1
Other Diseases, Genito-urinary System	-	1	1
Symptoms and Ill-defined Conditions	-	1	1
	12	17	29

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE FIVE YEARS 1964 - 1968.

Year	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths (all causes)	Maternal Mortality	Infant Mortality	
					Under 4 weeks	Under 1 year
1968	26	1	29	Nil	Nil	Nil
1967	25	Nil	31	Nil	1	1
1966	25	1	29	Nil	Nil	1
1965	16	Nil	33	Nil	Nil	Nil
1964	32	Nil	24	Nil	1	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The main work of the health department concerns the control of infectious diseases and the environment in which we live - a service for which the Council is responsible.

The present section of the report relates to those health services which concern the personal health and welfare of the individual rather than the population as a whole. The majority of these services are the responsibility of the Lancashire County Council, which has delegated much of the day-to-day administration to the Divisional Health Committee (No.6) on which Trawden has a representative. Co-ordination of the services is facilitated by the fact that your Medical Officer of Health acts also as Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

National Health Service Act, 1964, Part III.

1. Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children:

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics - Bank House, Albert Road, Colne.
 Child Welfare and Immunisation - Church Hall, Trawden
 (alternate Tuesdays 2 - 4 p.m.)
 Hartley Hospital, Colne.
 (alternate Tuesdays 2 - 4 p.m.)

2. Domiciliary Midwifery - two midwives are resident in Colne.
3. Health visiting - from Bank House, Colne.
4. Home Nursing - Trawden is served by a District Nursing Sister.
5. Home Help Service including night service.
6. Ambulance Service - Trawden is served from Nelson Ambulance Station. All vehicles are under radio control.
7. Mental Health - care supervision and after-care of the Mentally Ill. A junior training centre for mentally subnormal children is available at Nelson, and a hostel, with adjacent workshop, has been built at Colne for the employment of subnormal adults.
8. Prevention of Illness - care and after-care. This includes Health Education, convalescent care, prevention of Tuberculosis, Chiropody, and loan of nursing equipment.

National Assistance Act, 1948 - Welfare Services.

1. Homes for the aged - there are five homes in the Division belonging to the Lancashire County Council; in addition, two private homes for the aged, which are registered and regularly inspected.
2. Temporary accommodation is provided by the County Council for cases of urgent need, such as eviction, fire, flooding, etc.
3. Handicapped Persons - registers are kept so that all may be acquainted with and have the benefits of the help available. This includes occupational therapy, holiday schemes, and membership of one of the clubs, the nearest being at the British Legion Headquarters, Colne.
4. Section 47. No action was necessary during the year.

Education Act, 1944 - School Health Services

The School Nurse is also the District Health Visitor and thus knows all the children from babyhood. She and the School Medical Officer visit the Trawden School regularly. In addition to the routine medical and dental inspections of children, various clinics, some attended by visiting specialists, are provided for the correction and treatment of certain defects.

Hospitals and Laboratory.

Hospital facilities for the Urban District are provided by the Burnley and District Hospital Management Committee of which I am a member.

Patients with infectious diseases who cannot be suitably cared for at home would go to Marsden Hospital.

Maternity homes are available at Colne, Nelson and Burnley.

Pathological specimens and food samples are examined at the Victoria Hospital, Burnley, and the Public Health Laboratory, Preston.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were five cases of measles reported during the year.

The number of infectious diseases notified in the past five years is as follows:-

1968 ...	...	5
1967 ...	...	24
1966 ...	...	8
1965 ...	...	9
1964 ...	...	37

In an area such as Trawden the great majority of the younger school children will all attend the school in the town, and so will not come into regular contact with infectious diseases endemic in the larger urban areas. But when an infection is introduced, there will be a sudden and all embracing epidemic, which only abates when the supply of contacts is exhausted.

For this reason we must not relax our aim to have every baby protected from diphtheria, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, and tetanus (lock-jaw). The young mothers of today have never known the tragedies of diphtheria, and we hope that our children will not know that of poliomyelitis.

Immunisation is a free service, available either from the family doctor or at child welfare centres.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was required during 1968.

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REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1968.

Dr. P. G. Holt,
Medical Officer of Health,
Trawden U. D. C.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting my 12th Annual Report, for the year 1968.

Housing conditions in the area have continued to improve, and there has been an increase during the year in the number of houses which have been provided with Standard Amenities under grant aid. 22½% of the houses in the Urban District have now been improved in this way, an achievement which is probably unsurpassed anywhere in the country. During the year six houses were demolished in the Low Street and Slack Booth areas, thus further improving the visual amenity and the environment generally.

A watch has continued throughout the year upon the raw milk supplies in connection with Brucellosis, and a total of 197 samples have been taken for biological examination. Once again producers have been most co-operative, and have shown a genuine desire to work for the eradication of Brucellosis from the milk supply.

Operation Spring Clean was enthusiastically put into action by many people in the Urban District, the Local Authority setting a commendable example in cleaning up the facade of the Council Offices and the War Memorial by sand-blasting. The result of all this activity has been a marked improvement in the appearance of the village.

To you and to Dr. Dyer, your predecessor until September, I tender my thanks for your help and advice, and to the Health Committee for their interest. Once again I wish to record my appreciation of the co-operation and assistance rendered by my colleagues on the staff.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. SHORT,

Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY

Public Supply.

The mains water for the Urban District is supplied by the North Calder Water Board, and is derived from springs on Boulsworth Hill.

In order to utilise fully the sources of water on Boulsworth Hill and to provide adequate storage for Trawden, a new reservoir of 500,000 gallons capacity was completed at a cost of £56,760 and officially opened on 21st September 1968. The reservoir, constructed of reinforced concrete at 1,046 feet A.O.D. is 103 feet long by 78 feet 6 inches wide and 10 feet deep, and incorporates a pump house containing up-to-date treatment plant and control apparatus.

During the year 45 samples of water from the public supply were taken for Bacteriological Examination and 6 for Chemical Analysis. The supply is adequate, soft, and of good quality.

No. of houses supplied	...	...	...	699
No. of business premises supplied	...	...	...	61
No. of places of worship supplied	...	...	...	7

Hardness.

	P.p.m.
Temporary Hardness (removable by boiling)	30
Permanent Hardness (after boiling)	5
Total Hardness	<u>35</u>

Private Water Supplies.

81 houses and farms, which have no public mains within a reasonable distance, are supplied from private sources.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The sewers of the District discharge into the Colne Corporation sewer at Cottontree, via a Lea Recorder, and treatment is carried out by Colne Corporation under agreement.

There are approximately $4\frac{3}{4}$ miles of sewers in the District.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No serious pollution of the rivers and streams in the District occurred during the year. The Lancashire River Authority are notified whenever pollution is observed or reported.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

67 properties are on the conservancy system, the majority of which are in outlying locations. Enquiries have been received and advice given regarding the provision of septic tanks and progress continues to be made in this field. The Housing Act, 1964 provided for an increase from £155 to £350 in the maximum Standard Grant available in cases where septic tank drainage has to be installed, and more owners of outlying dwellings are taking advantage of this.

There have again been fewer pail closet conversions than in 1967, and progress still remains rather slow.

Sanitary Accommodation at the end of 1968:-

Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
Fresh Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	830
Pail Closets converted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Waste Water Closets converted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	8

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of refuse is carried out fortnightly from approximately 950 ashbins by Karrier Bantam side-loading vehicle.

Disposal is by tipping in a disused quarry at Winewall. Refuse tip fires have again been experienced from time to time, and again the Fire Service has been most helpful, no tip fire having been permitted to get out of control.

The salvage of waste paper has continued during the year and 21 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons were collected, which realised an income of £159. General scrap to the value of £10 : 3 : 6 was also recovered.

A charge of 2/- per bin is made for the collection of trade waste. The collection and disposal of bulky articles, such as unwanted furniture, is carried out free of charge from domestic premises.

When necessary the Council hire a motor gully emptier from a neighbouring authority for the cleansing of road gullies, although this is becoming a costly matter and the work has recently been carried out satisfactorily by direct labour.

The pail closets in the area, except a number in outlying situations are serviced weekly by private contractor.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The Council own and maintain two modern public conveniences, and one public urinal, and these are cleansed weekly. Public conveniences, utilising pail closets, are also maintained at Wycoller.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Inspections have been made of the shops and offices in the area, and no legal action has been necessary.

FACTORIES.

Factories Act, 1961.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES	No. on Register.	Type of Property.		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	10	27	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding outworkers premises)	2	15	-	-
Total	12	42	-	-

There were no outworkers resident in the District.

RODENT CONTROL.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Type of Property	
	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
(a) No. of properties in district	978	71
(b) Total no. of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	39	5
(c) No. of (b) infested by - rats	4	2
- mice	35	3
(d) Total no. of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	7	8
(e) No. of (d) infested by - rats	2	-
- mice	-	-

Throughout the Trawden Urban District mice are now completely immune and resistant to Warfarin and alpha-chloralose is used exclusively for their control. This rodenticide is not, as yet, available to the public through normal retail channels, and treatments are therefore normally carried out by the local authority. The number of infestations by mice notified to the local authority during the past two years has considerably increased, and this is no doubt due to the fact that householders who formerly used warfarin with success are now finding it necessary to seek the help of the local authority.

Treatment of Sewers for Rats. Baiting of the sewers for rats was carried out during the year, using a ready-mix of Warfarin '5', pinhead oatmeal, castor sugar, technical white oil, and paranitrophenol in muslin bags. Once again the results indicated a very minor infestation of the sewers.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

No legal action was necessary under the Clean Act, 1956.

DISINFESTATION.

Again it is encouraging to note that no cases of serious infestation by insects pests have occurred requiring action by the Local Authority. Advice and assistance has been given where sought in minor cases, particularly in respect of cockroaches which now seem to be the most common species of insect pest causing annoyance to householders.

HOUSING.

The housing conditions in the area continue to be generally good, and although many of the houses are old and of the terrace type, the majority of these are well maintained and provided with modern amenities.

Following a decline over the previous two years in the number of Standard Grants approved, the year 1968 has shown a marked increase. Seven more grants were approved than in 1967, bringing the total to 173 since the scheme commenced. This means that 22½% of the houses in the Urban District have been improved by grant aid since 1959.

Statistics.

Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	777
" " dwellinghouses inspected	...	...	...	...	97
" " houses closed	...	...	...	...	1
" " " demolished	...	...	...	...	6
" " back-to-back houses	...	...	...	...	16
" " other houses with no through ventilation	...	...	...	...	54

Standard Grants.

Applications submitted to Local Authority	...	...	26
" approved by " "	...	...	26
Work completed and grants paid	...	...	24

Local Authority Housing.

The extension of the Holme Crescent Estate, involving the erection of 8 flats and 21 houses, was completed during the year and all 29 dwellings were handed over and occupied.

The number of houses owned by the Local Authority is 100. This includes 20 bungalows and 4 flats for old persons.

MILK SUPPLY.

Sampling.

Total number of samples taken and submitted for biological examination - 197.

Results.

	Positive.	Negative.	Equivocal
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-
(b) Brucellosis - Ring Test	25	167	5
(c) " - Culture	20	10	3

In the case of a positive Brucella result the milk from the cow is sent for heat treatment or the affected cow is removed from the herd. The producer is advised as to milking methods in order to prevent the spread of Brucella Abortus to the milk of the remaining cows in the herd. Producers have again proved most co-operative during the year, and have shown a keenness to work towards a brucella free milk supply.

ICE CREAM

There are six premises registered for the storage and sale of pre-packed ice-cream under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Regular inspections have been made during the year. There is one manufacturer of ice-cream in the area. Three mobile ice-cream vendors from neighbouring areas trade in the District.

Three samples of ice-cream were taken for Methylene Blue Test and all proved satisfactory (Grade 1).

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

The standard of cleanliness and food handling practice of the traders in the District is generally good. No action was found necessary under the Regulations.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

There are no caravan or camping sites, no common lodging houses, no houses let in multiple occupation, and no offensive trades in the District.

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